

**INSTRUCTION**Ceremonies and ObservancesA. Generally

The Stafford County School Board encourages the observance throughout the school division of such special days and occurrences as are proclaimed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the President of the United States. Such observances shall be of educational value to the students and in acceptable taste.

B. Flags

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the flags of the United States of America and the Commonwealth shall be flown at each school.

C. Graduation Ceremonies

Graduation ceremonies shall be held for students graduating from the high school. Students must be attired in caps and gowns in order to participate in their graduation exercises.

Eligible students shall be awarded their diplomas or a certificate of attendance or program completion. Students who do not participate in the graduation ceremonies may receive their diplomas or certificates after the commencement ceremony.

The school shall not organize baccalaureate services. Such services may be held in the school building provided that appropriate legal requirements are met and board policies concerning the use of the building are complied with

**Legal Reference:** Through June 30, 1999

**Code of Va., §22.1-133. Flags.**-- "The flags of the United States of America and of the Commonwealth shall be flown in accordance with protocol and in an appropriate place at every public school. A flag of the Commonwealth shall be furnished by the Commonwealth for each new public school upon request of the school board directed to the Governor." (1980)

**Code of Va., §22.1-203. Daily observance of one minute of silence.** (1980)

## INSTRUCTION

Ceremonies and Observances (continued)

Code of Va., §22.1-203.1. Student initiated prayer. (1994)

Regulations of the Virginia Board of Education, "Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia." Requirements for Graduation. 8VAC 20-131-50 "...F. Students who complete a prescribed course of study as defined by the local school board but do not qualify for diplomas shall be awarded a [c]ertificate of [p]rogram [c]ompletion by the local school board. (Adopted September 4, 1997, effective October 31, 1997.)

Adopted by School Board: March 24, 1987  
Amended by School Board: June 29, 1999